Office - ARRB Hearing - L.A. - 9/17/96
H. Weisberg

1 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you very much, Mr.
2 Rankin. These materials will certainly enrich the records
3 that the Review Board has been compiling and we thank you
4 very very much on behalf of the Review Board. I wonder if
5 members have any brief questions for Mr. Rankin while he's
6 up here.
7 DR. NELSON: I have no questions, but I think this
8 is a marvelous thing to enrich history and its view. Those
9 of us who deal with documents, love annotated documents.
10 They're very very rich and we are very grateful to you.
11 Thank you.
12 (Applause.)
13 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Next we're going to ask David
14 Belin to come forward please for testimony. Mr. Belin is
15 the Former Assistant Counsel to the Warren Commission. He's
16 also the author of two books on the assassination. One is
17 entitled November 22, 1963: You Are the Jury, the other is
18 entitled Final Disclosure, the Full Truth About the
19 Assassination of President Kennedy. Mr. Belin also served
20 as Executive Director in the Rockefeller Commission of 1975
21 which investigated CIA involvement of assassinations of
22 foreign leaders. Mr. Belin, welcome.
23 DAVID BELIN
24 Former Assistant Counsel to the Warren Commission
25 Author of November 22, 1963: You are the Jury

1 Final Disclosure: The Full Truth About the Assassination
2 of President Kennedy
3 Executive Director of the Rockefeller Commission in
4 in 1975, Investigating CIA Assassinations of Foreign Leaders
5
6 MR. BELIN: Thank you, Judge. I have a formal
7 nine-page typewritten statement with a couple of exhibits
8 attached, which I'm going to leave with you when I am
9 finished. It has some interlineations because I was out of
10 the office yesterday. I did not have the time to get the
11 final changes made.
12 I want to summarize, highlight, a portion of what
13 my formal statement includes. A vocal group of
14 assassination revisionists are poised like scavengers to
15 attach the Assassination Records Review Board. They will
16 play to the grandstand when the Board has completed its work
17 crying out "If you would have released everything we would
18 have finally found the truth about the assassination."
19 Leading this group will be individuals associated with JFK,
20 the greatest electronic coverup fraud ever perpetrated on
21 America's movie screens. Jack Filente, President of the
22 Motion Picture Association of America, has denounced JFK,
23 and these are his words, "A hoax, a smear and pure fiction
24 that rivals the Nazi propaganda films of Lenny
25 Reiffensthahl. In Filente's words, and I'm quoting, "In

1 scene after scene Mr. Stone plasters together the half true
2 and the totally false and from that he manufacturers a
3 plausible in much the same way young German boys and girls
4 in 1941 were mesmerized by Lenny Reiffensthahl's Triumph of
5 the Will in which Adolph Hitler was depicted as a new born
6 god. Both JFK and Triumph of the Will are equally both a
7 propaganda masterpiece and equally a hoax." Unfortunately
8 the standards of JFK are also incorporated in another widely
9 seen electronic misrepresentation of the truth, the five
10 hour Arts and Entertainment cable network series, The Men
11 Who Killed Kennedy, which also covers up the truth about the
12 assassination.
13 The challenge this Assassination Records Review
14 Board faces is how to best discharge its duties in the face
15 of a torrential downpour of disinformation that has
16 dominated the media world and will continue after the work
17 of this Board is completed. It is in this context that I
18 have come to Los Angeles to share my prospectus with the
19 Board. And so there's no misunderstanding of the dangers
20 that you face, you've just heard Mr. Hamburg, co-producer of
21 the film Nixon with Mr. Stone, say, Remember, if you don't
22 release everything, remember, there's going to be a legacy
23 of doubt, distrust, unanswered questions in which he aligned
24 the Warren Commission as well as the House Select Committee
25 on Assassinations. And that's the challenge that you face.

1 Now, in addressing the challenge you face I'm
2 going to have two alternative recommendations, but in order
3 to get these in perspective I want to first start with a
4 frame of reference to understand how I approach this issue.
5 First, as you know I served as Counsel to the Warren
6 Commission in 1964. I was one of the two lawyers
7 concentrating on what we called Area Two, the determination
8 of who killed President Kennedy, which was expanded to who
9 killed Officer Tippett.
10 We interviewed the witnesses at the time shortly
11 after the event when their recollections were the freshest,
12 and therefore the best. In undertaking our investigation we
13 followed but one standard, a standard that was established
14 by Chief Justice Earl Warren in our very first meeting.
15 "Truth is our only goal." It was the standard Lee Rankin
16 followed. It was the standard that Professor Liebeler
17 followed. It was a standard that all of us followed.
18 In 1975 President Ford appointed me as the
19 Executive Director of the Commission on CIA activities
20 within the United States. It became known as the
21 Rockefeller Commission because Vice President Rockefeller
22 served as its chairman. By the way, another member of the
23 Commission was Ronald Reagan. In my investigation I was the
24 first outside person to uncover the fact that the CIA had
25 been engaged in assassination plots directed against foreign

1 leaders. Information that had been wrongfully held from the
2 Warren Commission. So what did I do? Well, in the fall of
3 1975 after I returned to my law practice in Des Moine, I
4 filed Freedom of Information Act requests from the unique
5 perspective of having had access to all of the CIA files
6 concerning the assassination of President Kennedy, having
7 had access to the Warren Commission files, and so I filed
8 these requests asking that all of the documents be released
9 from the CIA files concerning the assassination and the
10 remaining two or three percent of the Warren Commission
11 files that hadn't been released. Now having interviewed the
12 key witnesses I already knew what the facts were, I can say
13 absolute certainty Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone gunman
14 that killed President Kennedy, wounded Governor Connally and
15 killed Dallas Police Office J.D. Tippett on November 22,
16 1963. Neither the CIA or any other governmental agency was
17 in any way directly or indirectly involved, nor any so
18 called rogue elements directly involved. The evidence
19 beyond a reasonable doubt was Oswald was the lone gunman.
20 Jack Ruby was in no way conspiratorially involved. As a
21 matter of fact, unbeknownst to most people he offered to
22 take lie detector tests which confirmed that everything he
23 told the Warren Commission was true.
24 In an effort to help the public understand the
25 truth about the assassination, I have written two books.

1 Royalties of both books have been donated to charity, as
2 well as all of my speaking engagements, writing fees of
3 anything connected with the assassination.
4 Now with this background as to what my perspective
5 is, I want to contrast this with what I call "the
6 assassination revisionists and their coverup of the truth"
7 because it's important that although you're not here to
8 determine whether the Warren Commission was right or wrong,
9 I think it's important for you to understand the nature of
10 what takes place because it's going to better help you to
11 discharge your responsibilities as you seek to complete the
12 record of your work.
13 Let me use two examples from JFK one of which
14 involves a murder which I call "the Rosetta Stone" to
15 understand the truth about the assassination. Officer
16 Tippett, J.D. Tippett, was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald 45
17 minutes after the assassination. The Tippett murder is such
18 an open and shut case that one wonders how the American
19 public could be so readily deceived by assassination
20 revisionists. William Scoggins the cab driver who was
21 parked in his cab, whose testimony I took in the spring of
22 1964 in Dallas, told how he heard shots. He looked up and
23 saw the policeman fall, saw the gunman come as close to him
24 as 10 or 12 feet muttering either "poor damn cop" or "poor
25 dumb cop." Scoggins identified Oswald as the gunman. So

1 did five other witnesses, Barbara Davis, Virginia Davis, Sam
2 Guinyard, Ted Callaway, Helen Markham. Not only do you have
3 sid eyewitnesses who identified Oswald as the gunman, but
4 you found cartridge cases at the scene of the Tippett
5 murder, which Barbara Davis, Virginia Davis, and a witness
6 by the name of Domingo Benavides, turned over to the police.
7 Those cartridge cases came from Oswald's revolver that he
8 pulled out in the Texas theater as the police approached.
9 The bullets in Tippett's body, according to the
10 FBI ballistic experts, were too mutilated to be
11 ballistically identifiable. An independent expert, Mr.
12 Joseph D. Nicol, said one of them could be identified as
13 coming from Oswald's revolver.
14 Now, in the face of these facts, showing Oswald's
15 guilt, JFK and a host of revisionist books portrays the
16 Tippett murder as having been committed by two people,
17 neither one of whom was Oswald. Common sense would say to
18 anyone that the Dallas Police Department would have moved
19 heaven and earth to try and find who killed one of their
20 police officers if it wasn't Lee Harvey Oswald. By the way,
21 common sense would also say that if Oswald was not the lone
22 gunman who killed President Kennedy, nearly killed Texas
23 Governor John Connally, Jacqueline Kennedy, Robert Kennedy
24 and Governor Connally, would have left no stone unturned to
25 find out who the gunman was. Now that's one example of the

1 Tippett film.

2 The other thing that I'm going to talk about is
3 perhaps the most flagrant lie of JFK because it occurs at
4 the very end of the film after the movie action is over. In
5 essence the lie is in two parts and it is a permanent
6 indictment of Hollywood in general, and Warner Brothers and
7 Oliver Stone in particular. Here is what viewers see on
8 movie screens on an video tapes on a film that has been
9 distributed to classrooms across the country with a JFK
10 study guide finance in part by Warner Brothers. Here's what
11 it says in print after the movie is over, "A Congressional
12 investigation from 1976 to 1979 found a probable conspiracy
13 in the assassination of John F. Kennedy and recommended the
14 Justice Department investigate further." Now here is what
15 they say. "As of 1991 the Justice Department has done
16 nothing." What the movie did in a single paragraph was to
17 state two lies, one by omission and one by commission. And
18 then put this in a cosmetic framework because the movie at
19 the end is dedicated to the young and whose spirit the
20 search for the truth marches on.

21 First the lie of omission. The movie viewers have
22 just seen Oswald depicted as an innocent patsy and Earl
23 Warren depicted as a coverup participant. Now, the findings
24 of that 1976 to '79 investigation, as everyone knows who
25 knows the findings, were that Oswald fired all of the shots

1 that struck President Kennedy and Governor Connally. That
2 the single-bullet theory of the Warren Commission is
3 correct. That Oswald was the lone gunman who killed Officer
4 Tippett. All of this is directly contrary to JFK and Jim
5 Garrison's theory, that was just enunciated here by Mr.
6 Hamburg, of triangulation. The fact that Oliver Stone and
7 Warner Brothers mentions a Congressional investigation
8 without mentioning the conclusion that Oswald was the one
9 who killed President Kennedy and Officer Tippett, is one
10 major lie by omission.
11 Related to this lie of omission is another key
12 related fact. The last minute switch of a majority of the
13 Congressional Committee believing in probable conspiracy
14 that was based on reported acoustical evidence, which in
15 1982 was scientifically disproved by the Committee on
16 Ballistic Acoustics. Professor Liebeler has just talked
17 about that. It was not the whole Committee who fell victim
18 to this. It was a Committee majority. There were
19 dissenting reports filed as you know.
20 But as bad as these lies of omission were, the big
21 lie of commission is even worse, and that's what you people
22 face as consider what you're going to do toward the end of
23 your review. The allegation that as of 1991 the Justice
24 Department has done nothing, is not some actor making a
25 statement as part of a movie plot, it is Warner Brothers and

1 Mr. Stone telling the American public, indeed the entire
2 world, that there was a recommendation for the Justice
3 Department to investigate further, and that as of 1991 the
4 Justice Department has said nothing. How could Hollywood,
5 how could Warner Brothers, how could Oliver Stone dare to
6 make such a false statement when the truth was so readily
7 ascertainable. Here are the facts: A majority of the House
8 Select Committee on Assassinations on the basis of
9 acoustical evidence, concluded there was a fourth shot fired
10 from the grassy knoll that missed everything. One hundred
11 twenty five feet fired down hill did not only miss the
12 limousine -- the occupants in the limousine. But because
13 the minority disagreed there was a recommendation that the
14 Justice Department investigate further. What happened next
15 was that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is part
16 of the Department of Justice, undertook further
17 investigation and prepared a report on November 19, 1980,
18 concluding the acoustical evidence findings were not valid.
19 However, there was substantial question whether or not that
20 FBI investigation was scientifically sound. Therefore, the
21 Justice Department requested in the fall of 1980 that the
22 National Research Council establish the Committee on
23 Ballistic Acoustics. It was comprised of outstanding
24 scientists from across the country, was chaired by Doctor
25 Norman Ramsey a Nobel Professor of Physics from Harvard. As

1 of May 17, 1982, the Committee on Ballistic Acoustics
2 published a 96 page report. The introduction on page three
3 completely disproved the lies of the JFK script that said as
4 of 1991 the Justice Department had done nothing because
5 here's what it said, "The Committee on Ballistic Acoustics
6 was established by the National Research Council in the fall
7 of 1980 in response to the requests from the Department of
8 Justice for a review of the methodology employed in the
9 evaluations of the recorded acoustic data out of the
10 conclusions about the existence of a shot from the grassy
11 knoll." Now in my written statement I include highlights
12 from the conclusions of that Committee. They found out,
13 number one, there was no scientific basis for the purported
14 acoustical evidence conclusions. Number two, they found
15 there was independent evidence that showed that the so-
16 called electronic impulses took place a minute after the
17 assassination. And, number three, they pointed out, as
18 Professor Liebeler has said, that the dictabelt was not
19 evidently in the motorcade -- or not on a motorcycle -- or
20 not recorded from a stuck microphone in a motorcycle in the
21 motorcade because it didn't pick up the sounds of sirens as
22 the motorcade sped from the assassination scene. There was
23 no sound of revving up of motorcycle engines. There were
24 sounds of chimes but there were no chimes in Dealey Plaza.
25 Officer McClane, by the way, who was the driver of

1 the motorcycle that the House Committee experts said had the
2 stuck microphone said, "My microphone wasn't stuck."
3 Now we've heard a lot about the dangers of
4 Hollywood and violence, but as bad as all of Hollywood's
5 violence is, the deliberate dissemination of lies attacking
6 our government and governmental institutions is even worse.
7 Trust is the mortar that holds the structure of our
8 government together, and when a Hollywood film dedicated to
9 the young and whose spirit the search for truth marches on
10 lies to the young as everyone else that the assassination of
11 a president was a coup d'etat undertaken by agencies of the
12 United States Government and covered up by the Chief Justice
13 of the United States, it's a terrible attack on citizen
14 trust. When the truth is submerged in survival of a free
15 society and civilization is threatened and from a long range
16 standpoint nothing could be worse than this electronic
17 downpour of lies.
18 Now with the foregoing as a frame of reference, I
19 make these two alternative recommendations to this Board.
20 First alternative, this is the one that I prefer, I would
21 urge that the Assassination Reviews Board release every
22 single document in CIA files concerning the assassination of
23 President Kennedy and also all the remaining Warren
24 Commission files, about two percent of those files, that
25 have not previously been released. Having had access to all

1 of this information, I know that it will not in any way
2 diminish the validity of the determination by the Warren
3 Commission and the determination of the House Select
4 Committee on Assassinations that Lee Harvey Oswald was the
5 lone gunman that killed President Kennedy, wounded Governor
6 Connally and killed Officer Tippett on November 22, 1963.
7 And it would not in any way diminish the findings of the
8 Warren Commission at the House Select Committee on
9 Assassinations, that all of the shots that struck President
10 Kennedy and Governor Connally were fired by Lee Harvey
11 Oswald from the southeast corner sixth floor window of the
12 Texas School Depository Building. Although I am well aware
13 of the arguments that the CIA and the National Archives may
14 make concerning personal privacy and protection of sources
15 and methods. I believe that the CIA is precluded from
16 raising these kinds of issues because it does not have what
17 in the law is called "clean hands." The reason is that the
18 CIA improperly withheld from the Warren Commission evidence
19 of CIA assassination plots against Fidel Castro. Evidence
20 that was very important for the Warren Commission to have in
21 light of its investigation into the possibilities of foreign
22 conspiracy and counter-conspiracy. The public in the long
23 run will be far better served to have this information
24 released, not just because it will reconfirm the findings of
25 the Warren Commission, but because it will also destroy

1 whatever remaining arguments there are by assassination
2 revisionists like the JFK crowd who falsely assert that the
3 withholding of these files is part of a continuing coverup
4 when in fact it is they who are the ones who cover up the
5 truth about the assassination. That alternate number one
6 basically conforms to what I did personally in 1975 when I
7 called in the National Archives and the CIA to release
8 everything.
9 Now if you choose not to do this, and I know thus
10 far you are not released everything, but you always have the
11 opportunity to change your minds before your charter is
12 over. If you choose not to do this then at the second best
13 alternative, I would suggest the following: I believe this
14 Assassination Records Review Board should affirmatively
15 state in its final report the following: A) There is no
16 document that has not been released that in any way
17 whatsoever diminishes the determination of both the Warren
18 Commission and the House Select Committee on Assassinations
19 that all of the shots that struck President Kennedy and John
20 Connally on November 22, 1963, were fired by Lee Harvey
21 Oswald from the southeast corner sixth floor window of the
22 School Book Depository Building.
23 B) There's no document that has not been released
24 that in any way whatsoever that diminishes the determination
25 of both the Warren Commission and the House Select Committee

1 on Assassinations that Lee Harvey Oswald killed Officer J.
2 D. Tippett.
3 C) There's no document that has not been released
4 that in any way whatsoever diminishes the determination of
5 the findings of the Committee on Ballistic Acoustics, which
6 concluded there was no scientific validity to the erroneous
7 acoustical evidence which persuaded a majority of the House
8 Select Committee on Assassinations to conclude there was a
9 fourth shot fired from the grassy knoll by an unseen gunman
10 who missed not only hitting the occupants of the
11 presidential limousine but the limousine itself.
12 D) There is no document that has not been released
13 that in any way whatsoever shows that Jack Ruby, who
14 volunteered to take the lie detector test, a test which
15 confirmed that everything he told the Warren Commission was
16 true, was in any way conspiratorially involved in the
17 assassination.
18 E) If the Board is unwilling to make the foregoing
19 statements, which having had access to all of these
20 documents I know to be true, then the Board at the very
21 least should release to the public any document which the
22 Board feels precludes it from making the foregoing
23 affirmative statements. Otherwise assassination
24 revisionists will falsely accuse the Board of a coverup just
25 as they have falsely accused Earl Warren. And I wrote these

1 words before I heard what Mr. Hamburg said because that was
2 a threat that he's made to you. Anyone who has had access
3 to the Warren Commission files and the CIA assassination
4 files as I have had, knows that these are the facts.
5 Moreover I not only have the knowledge of the files, but I
6 also have the knowledge of having interviewed the key
7 witnesses to the assassination of President Kennedy and the
8 murder of Officer Tippett in 1964 shortly after the events
9 occurred when the memory of these witnesses were the
10 freshest and best.
11 I am attaching to my formal statement and
12 incorporated by referenced copies of March 17, 1992 and June
13 25, 1993, pieces that I wrote for the New York Times. The
14 fee for these pieces, like the royalties for my books about
15 the Kennedy assassination, I have previously said have been
16 turned over to charity. I have no financial interest in the
17 outcome of what this Assassination Records Review Board
18 does. However, what I do have is a deep concern about the
19 electronic dissemination of lies about the assassination and
20 movies like JFK and cable television programs like the five
21 hour A and E entertainment series The Men Who Killed
22 Kennedy. And it is for this reason that I have flown to
23 California to make this presentation before this
24 Assassination Review Board and because I care for the truth
25 and I care for my country.

1 In closing I want you to know that for me as I
2 speak today, the ultimate issue is not who killed President
3 Kennedy, wounded Governor Connally and killed Officer
4 Tippett. I already know the answer to that, it was Lee
5 Harvey Oswald. For me the ultimate issue is whether there
6 will be any change in the present course and direction of
7 the electronic media as profit seeking corporations and
8 individuals if priority to misrepresentations and deceit
9 over truth going so far as to infiltrate our school system
10 with the virus of lies, the present course of the electronic
11 media poses a clear and present danger for the future of
12 democracy in America. If I leave any legacy on this earth,
13 beyond my five wonderful children, it will not be that
14 historians will ever remember the name of David Belin, but
15 what I have done for more than 25 years in standing up for
16 the truth, and defending Earl Warren might in some small way
17 be a tiny beacon of light that will point the way to people
18 of vision and idealism who will recognize that truth is the
19 foundation of civilization. They will understand how
20 important it is for Americans to understand the truth about
21 the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. They will
22 understand how important it is to expose the
23 misrepresentations of assassination revisionists and the
24 electronic downpour of deceit in movies like JFK and
25 television programs like The Men Who Killed Kennedy. They

1 will help resurrect the reputation of Earl Warren, who has
2 been the victim of libel and slander of which perhaps the
3 worst was the false testimony by Oliver Stone before a
4 Congressional Committee in April, 1962 that Earl Warren was
5 partially senile. And above all, they will help restore
6 trust and confidence in government, the mortar which binds a
7 free society.
8 Thank you very much. I'd be happy to answer any
9 question you want. There isn't any question that anyone can
10 ask about who was the government that killed President
11 Kennedy and Officer Tippett that I can't answer if you give
12 me a chance. Of course 30 second television bites doesn't
13 do that, but I am at your will.
14 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Questions members?
15 DR. JOYCE: Mr. Belin, your work both with the
16 Warren Commission and the Rockefeller Commission, exposed
17 you to a great many records. I'm wondering if either in
18 your own case or in those of your colleagues if you're aware
19 of any records still in private hands as an outcome of that
20 work that we might be interested in pursuing?
21 MR. BELIN: These are documents that I think are
22 the most important documents in private hands, and I'll tell
23 you a story about it. It's the original copy of the
24 Zapruder film. It's the best copy. It's the easiest one to
25 see as Professor Liebeler said, that from frame 312 to 313

1 there was movement of the President's head forward. By the
2 way, it was not just his head that moved backward after
3 frame 313, it's his head and his body. And experts from
4 both the Rockefeller Commission and the House Select
5 Committee on Assassinations, showed that it was a mass of
6 neurological damage which caused this extremity body
7 movement backwards. In 1975 Time Magazine was deciding what
8 to do with this original film. I wrote to the chief
9 executive officer, or one of the officers of Time and I
10 said, you know, this is a national treasure. If you're
11 going to sell it I have a private foundation that would like
12 to get a copy of it, pay for it and turn it over to the
13 National Archives because that's where it belongs. Instead
14 what they did, is they either sold it for a nominal sum or
15 gave it back to the Zapruder family. I really think the
16 Zapruder family has a moral obligation to turn that Zapruder
17 film, and whatever original copies of slides was made from
18 that -- we sent a set of the slides over to the National
19 Archives. And I would really urge this Assassination
20 Records Review Board to ask the Zapruder family to do that.
21 Mr. Zapruder got a lot of money for that film. Newspapers
22 reports purported to say that he turned over $25,000 to
23 Officer Tippett's widow replying that that's all he got.
24 From Life I think the family got about $150,000. Today
25 that's worth like close to a million dollars. But I really

1 think that's the one thing that could be turned over.
2 The only other thing that I think -- I think
3 you've seen everything in the -- or are getting access to
4 see everything in the CIA files, and I just don't -- I would
5 urge that you not let them stonewall you with this
6 protection of sources and methods. The CIA really has
7 unclean hands and they will learn something by not being
8 able to protect this. So learn this so that the next time
9 there's any kind of a presidential commission which says
10 that agencies will cooperate and do everything possible,
11 they will do it. They will say, remember what happened to
12 us when we didn't do it with the Warren Commission. We
13 eventually, because of the Assassination Records Review
14 Board, had to disclose everything. So that would be my
15 advice to you people. But you're the final judges.
16 DR. NELSON: Well as you know, Mr. Belin, we've
17 made great effort to do what you're asking us. We are
18 opening very many documents that have been opened and we are
19 not very protective as far as the agency is concerned.
20 One of the things I wanted to ask you though, I
21 was reminded as you were talking, it has been suggested that
22 it wasn't so much that the Warren Commission was subject to
23 disbelief but that after the Warren Commission the documents
24 were withheld and that it was the withholding of documents
25 for almost 30 years that actually stimulated the suspicions

1 surrounding the Warren Commission. Do you think that was
2 possible? Do you think -- we will hopefully not have to
3 face that. But has it ever entered into your thinking about
4 this?
5 MR. BELIN: Well, Doctor Nelson, I have been very
6 candid in saying that the Warren Commission made a major
7 mistake in one particular area of documents. And by the
8 way, this is probably initial response to Doctor Joyce. The
9 Warren Commission at the request of the Kennedy family,
10 Robert Kennedy, determined not to release the Kennedy
11 autopsy photographs and x-rays. And Professor Liebeler is
12 absolutely right, we should have had access to the original
13 autopsy photographs and x-rays. The rationale was that
14 whatever exhibits we had would be turned over to the public.
15 Earl Warren basically was persuaded by Robert Kennedy not to
16 have these released. I think the Kennedy family felt as a
17 matter of privacy -- perhaps they didn't want magazines to
18 publish as the last pictures of President Kennedy these
19 horrible photographs and x-rays. I never saw them myself
20 until the Rockefeller investigation when we had a panel of
21 experts because charges were made that the CIA was involved
22 in the assassination and the shots came from the front. So
23 we had an independent panel of experts to review this.
24 Now I believe that you are absolutely correct that
25 one of the reasons that there was misbelief in the Warren

1 Commission findings was that these autopsy photographs and
2 x-rays were not released. And as soon as you have anything
3 not released, people say what else haven't you released.
4 The fact is that 19 of 20 doctors on four different medical
5 panels, including the House Select Committee, Rockefeller
6 Commission, the Ramsey Collect Panel and the original
7 autopsy panel, say that all the shots came from the rear.
8 But more important than that, ballistically you have the
9 bullets. The nearly whole bullet taken off Governor
10 Connally, and the ballistically identifiable portions of the
11 bullet that struck President Kennedy's head. Those were
12 shown to have come from the rifle found in the School Book
13 Depository Building. The cartridge cases found in the
14 window, Howard Brennan saw the gunman fire, came from that
15 rifle. Now what can you do about the people that say, well
16 what about the rest of the exhibits? The problem you'll
17 face is that you have some issues involving sources and
18 methods on privacy. And the other part of the problem is
19 what I was trying to illustrate in giving the two key
20 examples, and there are hundreds of others, of lies, when
21 people basically -- every document involved in the Tippett
22 murder has been released. And this is something you ought
23 to consider in your final report. Every document involving
24 the Tippett murder has been released. You have six eye
25 witnesses identifying Oswald. You've got the identifying

1 evidence. And yet these people say that Oswald didn't kill
2 Tippett, what can you do about that? What can you do when
3 the end of the film JFK after all the plot is over, they say
4 something in words and black and white that says the Justice
5 Department has done nothing, when the Justice Department
6 basically specifically asked the National Research Council
7 to do something which they did when they formed the
8 Committee on Ballistic Acoustics.
9 And therefore I'm going to say that it's up to you
10 to consider including in your report examples of this, and
11 that's what I say is the alternative, if you don't want to
12 release everything I think you five good people, who have no
13 connection with the Warren Commission, no connection with
14 the House Select Committee, no connection with the
15 Rockefeller Committee, can honestly say, well, if we've
16 chosen not to release anything or redact anything it's not
17 because it in anyway suggests that Oswald is not the lone
18 gunman who killed Kennedy and wounded Connally. It does not
19 suggest that Oswald was the gunman who killed Tippett. It
20 does not suggest that the ballistic -- that the Commission
21 on Ballistic Acoustics was inaccurate. It does not suggest
22 that Jack Ruby didn't tell the truth when he testified for
23 the Warren Commission. It's because we really think that
24 this is the particular source and method, or this is a
25 particular matter of privacy that we could not disclose.

1 And that's why I'm here today.

2 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you very much, Mr. Belin,

3 for your testimony today.

4 MR. BELIN: I have copies of my written statement,

5 which I will give to each one of you.

6 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Very well.

7 MR. BELIN: And I'll give typed copies which will

8 take care of the final drafts which will take care of the

9 interlineations.

10 CHAIRMAN TUNHEIM: Thank you very much, we

11 appreciate it.

12 The next witness today is Mr. James DiEugenio. He

13 is the author of a book entitled Destiny Betrayed: JFK, Cuba

14 and the Garrison Case, which is an analysis of New Orleans

15 District Attorney Jim Garrison's inquiry and of the

16 assassination itself. Mr. DiEugenio.

17 JAMES DIEUGENIO

18 Author of Destiny Betrayed: JFK, Cuba and the

19 Garrison Case

20 MR. DIEUGENIO: Thank you. I am kind of stunned

21 after Mr. Belin's presentation.

22 I would like to welcome the Review Board here and

23 thank you for coming to beautiful downtown L.A. I

24 appreciate the opportunity to offer anything I have to say

25 about here, and I'll get right to some of the main points I